Increasing the number of coaches in Ranikhet Express

661. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the monthly volume of passengers and revenue earned from sale of tickets in 5013/5014,Ranikhet Express for the last six months, month-wise and class-wise;

(b) whether this train had nearly cent per cent occupation level in this period;

(c) if so, whether Railways would increase the number of Sleeper and 3 AC coaches in the train to meet the heavy load of passengers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when a decision in this regard would be taken and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) A Statement is attached (*See* below).

(b) The occupancy of all trains including 5013/5014 Ranikhet Express trains vary from class to class and time to time. During the period from July, 2008 to December, 2008, the utilisation of different classes in these trains varied between 59 and 105%.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. At present increasing the number of coaches on permanent basis is not feasible due to operational constraints. However, one additional coach is attached on temporary basis in case of heavy rush.

Statement

Details regarding passengers etc. in Ranikhet Express

(a) Month-wise, Class-wise details of approximate number of passengers booked through computerized Passenger Reservation System(PRS) and earnings therefrom in 5013/5014 Delhi-Kathgodam, Ranikhet Express during the period from July, 2008 to December, 2008 are as under: -

5013 **Delhi-Kathgodam Ranikhet Express**

Month	Passenger Booked				Earnings (in Rs.)			
	1AC	2AC	3AC	SL	1AC	2AC	3AC	SL
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Jul-08	446	2567	3270	14138	385193	1500741	1370608	2138416
Aug-08	472	2760	3462	15490	402883	1634224	1434643	2355406
Sep-08	321	1792	2268	10350	264643	1042291	922843	1547079
Oct-08	513	2968	3824	18676	422480	1686477	1528446	2959488
Nov-08	123	744	972	4847	102350	425694	396292	767050
Dec-08	278	1519	2012	8561	228932	814448	804353	1331999

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
5014 **Kathgodam- Delhi Ranikhet Express**								
Jul-08	508	2987	2162	13557	442569	1870405	1127288	2823834
Aug-08	539	2984	2187	14095	469731	1865232	1120818	2926686
Sep-08	290	1724	1290	7949	250236	1036517	630268	1575203
Oct-08	526	2983	2225	14718	450627	1789872	1121552	3338362
Nov-08	142	831	637	4191	122677	482530	299882	912352
Dec-08	230	1440	1098	6699	211060	891088	568097	1524905

Trouble in cleaning of platforms in Kolkata

†662.SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some organized persons are creating trouble for the railway officials of Kolkata in cleaning platforms;

(b) whether the said people belong to any union;

(c) whether the railway officials have sought help of the State Government; and

(d) whether the services of the Railway Protection Force are being taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) In Kolkata area of Sealdah Division, Eastern Railway almost all the platforms have been occupied by unauthorized hawkers/vendors under the banner of different Union groups like CiTUS, INTUC, INTTUC, TUCC etc., and they are creating trouble for Railway Officials in cleaning the platforms.

(c) From time to time, meetings have been held with State Administration in connection with eviction of unauthorized hawkers/encroachers from the platforms, circulating areas in the Railway premises. But the help rendered by State Administration is not proving against the unionized/organized bodies as Law & Order problems break out whenever such programmes are undertaken.

(d) Services of Railway Protection Force is being taken but due to immense problem of Law & Order occurring in such eviction programmes, the efforts of RPF has not brought the desired results.

Hike in railway freight rates

663. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways have hiked the freight rates of essential foodgrain items by more than 8 per cent through a notification;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the prices of, essential food articles are bound to take a hike thereby causing hardships to the common man;

(c) what steps are being taken to contain the prices and prevent the inflationary trend in the market; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.